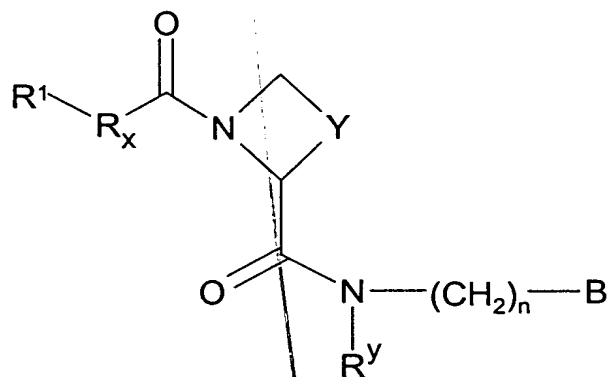


Claims

1. A compound of formula I,



wherein

R^1 represents H, C_{1-4} alkyl (optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from cyano, halo, OH, $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^{1a}$ or $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}^{1b})\text{R}^{1c}$) or OR^{1d} ;

R^{1d} represents H, $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^{11}$, $\text{SiR}^{12}\text{R}^{13}\text{R}^{14}$ or C_{1-6} alkyl, which latter group is optionally substituted or terminated by one or more substituent selected from OR^{15} or $(\text{CH}_2)_q\text{R}^{16}$;

R^{12} , R^{13} and R^{14} independently represent H, phenyl or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^{16} represents C_{1-4} alkyl, phenyl, OH, $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^{17}$ or $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{H})\text{R}^{18}$;

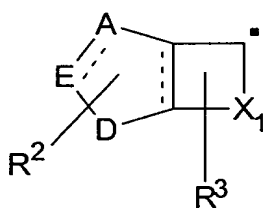
R^{18} represents H, C_{1-4} alkyl or $\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^{19}$;

R^{15} and R^{17} independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkylphenyl;

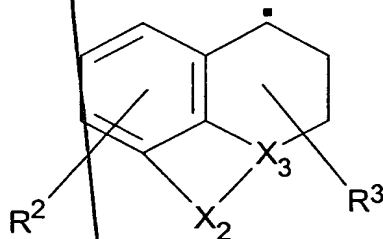
R^{1a} , R^{1b} , R^{1c} , R^{11} and R^{19} independently represent H or C_{1-4} alkyl; and

q represents 0, 1 or 2;

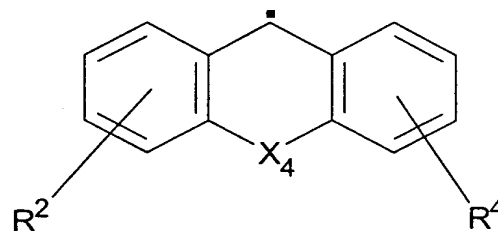
R_x represents a structural fragment of formula IIa, IIb or IIc,



IIa



IIb



IIc

5 wherein

the dotted lines independently represent optional bonds;

A and E independently represent O or S, CH or CH₂ (as appropriate), or N or N(R²¹) (as appropriate);

10 D represents -CH₂-, O, S, N(R²²), -(CH₂)₂-, -CH=CH-, -CH₂N(R²²)-, -N(R²²)CH₂-, -CH=N-, -N=CH-, -CH₂O-, -OCH₂-, -CH₂S- or -SCH₂-;

X₁ represents C₂₋₄ alkylene; C₂₋₃ alkylene interrupted by Z; -C(O)-Z-A¹-; -Z-C(O)-A¹-; -CH₂-C(O)-A¹-; -Z-C(O)-Z-A²-; -CH₂-Z-C(O)-A²-; -Z-CH₂-C(O)-A²-; -Z-CH₂-S(O)_m-A²-; -C(O)-A³-; -Z-A³-; or -A³-Z-;

X₂ represents C₂₋₃ alkylene, -C(O)-A⁴- or -A⁴-C(O)-;

15 X₃ represents CH or N;

X₄ represents a single bond, O, S, C(O), N(R²³), -CH(R²³)-, -CH(R²³)-CH(R²⁴)- or -C(R²³)=C(R²⁴)-;

A¹ represents a single bond or C₁₋₂ alkylene;

A² represents a single bond or -CH₂-;

20 A³ represents C₁₋₃ alkylene;

A⁴ represents C(O) or C₁₋₂ alkylene;

Z represents, at each occurrence, O, S(O)_m or N(R²⁵);

R² and R⁴ independently represent one or more optional substituents

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selected from C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy (which latter two groups are optionally substituted by one or more halo substituent), methylenedioxy, halo, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, $S(O)_2NH_2$, $C(O)OR^{26}$, SR^{26} , $S(O)R^{26a}$, $S(O)_2R^{26a}$ or $N(R^{27})R^{28}$;

- 5 R^3 represents one or more optional substituents selected from OH, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkyl (optionally substituted by one or more halo group), or $N(R^{29a})R^{29b}$;

R^{25} , R^{29a} and R^{29b} independently represent H, C_{1-4} alkyl or $C(O)R^{30}$;

R^{26} represents H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

- 10 R^{26a} represents C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^{27} and R^{28} independently represent H, C_{1-4} alkyl or $C(O)R^{30}$, or together represent C_{3-6} alkylene, thus forming a 4- to 7-membered ring, which ring is optionally substituted, on a carbon atom that is α to the nitrogen atom, with an =O group;

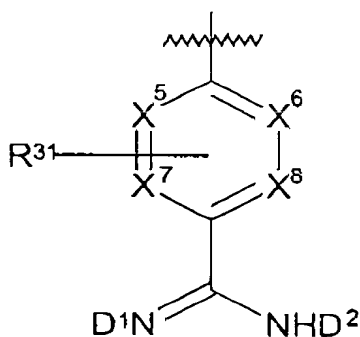
- 15 R^{21} , R^{22} , R^{23} , R^{24} and R^{30} independently represent, at each occurrence, H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

Y represents CH_2 , $(CH_2)_2$, $CH=CH$ (which latter group is optionally substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl), $(CH_2)_3$, $CH_2CH=CH$ or $CH=CHCH_2$ (which latter three groups are optionally substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl, methylene, =O or hydroxy);

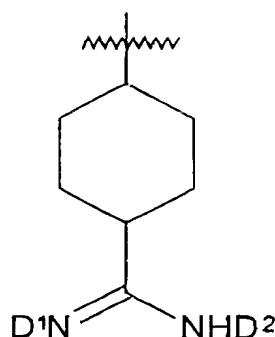
R^y represents H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

- 25 n represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; and

B represents a structural fragment of formula IIIa or IIIc



IIIa



IIIc

wherein

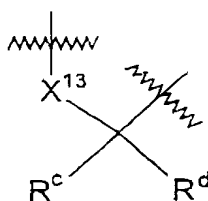
X^5 , X^6 , X^7 and X^8 independently represent CII, N or N-O;

R^{31} represents an optional substituent selected from halo, C_{1-4} alkyl (which group is optionally substituted by one or more halo group), $N(R^{32})R^{33}$, OR^{34} or SR^{35} ;

R^{32} and R^{33} independently represent H, C_{1-4} alkyl or $C(O)R^{36}$;

R^{34} , R^{35} and R^{36} independently represent H or C_{1-4} alkyl; and

one of D^1 and D^2 represents H, and the other represents H, OR^a , NHR^a , $C(=X^{11})X^{12}R^b$, or D^1 and D^2 together represent a structural fragment of formula IVa:-



IVa

R^a represents H or $-A^5[X^{14}]_n[C(O)]_rR^c$;

R^b represents $-A^5[X^{14}]_n[C(O)]_rR^c$;

A^5 represents, at each occurrence, a single bond or C_{1-12} alkylene (which alkylene group is optionally interrupted by one or more O, $S(O)_m$ and/or

- N(R^f) group, and is optionally substituted by one or more of halo, OH, N(H)C(O)R^g, C(O)N(R^g)R^h, C₃₋₇-cycloalkyl (which cycloalkyl group is optionally interrupted by one or more O, S(O)_m and/or N(R^f) group and/or is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halo, =O or =S), Het and C₆₋₁₀ aryl (which aryl and Het groups are themselves optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl (optionally substituted by one or more halo substituent), C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halo, cyano, C(O)OR^g, C(O)N(R^g)R^h and N(R^f)R^g);
- 10 R^c and R^d both represent H; or one of R^c and R^d represents H or C₁₋₇ alkoxy and the other represents C₁₋₇ alkyl (which alkyl group is optionally interrupted by one or more O atoms); or R^c and R^d together represent C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, which cycloalkyl group is interrupted by one or more O, S(O)_m and/or N(R^f) group;
- 15 R^e represents, at each occurrence, H, C₁₋₁₂ alkyl (which alkyl group is optionally interrupted by one or more O, S(O)_m and/or N(R^f) group, and/or is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, OH, N(H)C(O)R^g and C(O)N(R^g)R^h), A⁷-C₃₋₇-cycloalkyl (which cycloalkyl group is optionally interrupted by one or more O, S(O)_m and/or
- 20 N(R^f) group and/or is substituted by one or more substituents selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halo, =O and =S), A⁷-C₆₋₁₀ aryl or A⁷-Het (which aryl and Het groups are optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl (optionally substituted by one or more halo substituent), C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halo, cyano, C(O)OR^g, C(O)N(R^g)R^h and
- 25 N(R^f)R^g);
- A⁷ represents a single bond or C₁₋₇ alkylene (which alkylene group is optionally interrupted by one or more O, S(O)_m and/or N(R^f) group, and/or are optionally substituted by one or more of halo, OH, N(H)COR^g and CON(R^g)R^h);

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B1

Het represents, at each occurrence, a five- to ten-membered heteroaryl group, which may be aromatic in character, containing one or more nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur atoms in the ring system;

n and r independently represent 0 or 1;

5 X^{11} , X^{12} and X^{14} independently represent O or S;

X^{13} represents O or N(R^f);

R^f represents, at each occurrence, H, C₁₋₄ alkyl or C(O)R^g;

R^g and R^h independently represent, at each occurrence, H or C₁₋₄ alkyl;
and

10

m represents, at each occurrence, 0, 1 or 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

15 provided that:

(a) A and E do not both represent O or S;

(b) E and D do not both represent O or S;

(c) when R¹ represents OR^{1d} and X₁ represents -C(O)-Z-A¹,
-Z-CH₂-S(O)_m-A²- or -Z-C(O)-Z-A², then A¹ or A² (as appropriate) do not

20 represent a single bond;

(f) when X₄ represents -CH(R²³)-, R¹ does not represent OH;

(g) when A⁵ represents a single bond, then n and r both represent 0;

(f) when A⁵ represents C₁₋₁₂ alkylene, then n represents 1;

(g) when A⁵ represents -CH₂-, n is 1 and r is 0, then R^e does not represent

25 H; and

(h) the compound is not:-

(S)- or (R)-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Pro-Pab;

(R)- or (S)-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Pro-Pab;

(S)- or (R)-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;

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- (*R*)- or (*S*)-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab;
 1-hydroxy-5-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;
 1-hydroxy-5,7-dimethyltetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;
 1-hydroxy-7-aminotetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;
 5 1-hydroxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;
 7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;
 (*R*)- or (*S*)-7-methoxy-1-methyltetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab;
 4-hydroxy-6-methoxychroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x OAc;
 (*S*)- or (*R*)-1-hydroxy-4-methoxyindan-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab;
 10 1-hydroxy-5-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(OH);
 (*S*)- or (*R*)-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(OH);
 4-hydroxy-6-methoxychroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(OH);
 4-hydroxy-6-methoxychroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(OMe);
 (*S*)- or (*R*)-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab-
 15 (C(O)OCH₂CCl₃);
 (*S*)- or (*R*)-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab-
 (C(O)OCH₂CH₃);
 7-methoxy-1-allyltetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;
 (*S*)- or (*R*)-1-hydroxy-7-chlorotetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Pro-Pab;
 20 1-*n*-propyl-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;
 6-chloro-4-hydroxychroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;
 4-hydroxychroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;
 6,8-dichloro-4-hydroxychroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;
 6-fluoro-4-hydroxychroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;
 25 4-hydroxy-6-methylchroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;
 8-chloro-4-hydroxy-6-methoxychroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;
 6-chloro-4-hydroxy-8-methylchroman-4-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc;
 (*S*)- or (*R*)-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(O-C(O)-*i*-Pr);
 (*S*)- or (*R*)-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(O-C(O)-Et);

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(S)- or (R)-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(O-C(O)-Ch);

(S)- or (R)-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(O-allyl);

(S)- or (R)-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(O-Bzl);

(S)- or (R)-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab-

5 (CO-O-methallyl);

1-hydroxy-7-aminotetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(OH);

(S)- or (R)-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab(O-Val);

(S)- or (R)-1-hydroxy-7-methoxytetralin-1-yl-C(O)-Aze-(Me)Pab; or

9-hydroxyfluoren-9-yl-C(O)-Aze-Pab x HOAc.

10

2. A compound as claimed in Claim 1 wherein R^1 represents OH or C_{1-4} alkyl (which latter group is optionally substituted by cyano or OH).

15

Claim 1
3. A compound as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein R_x represents a structural fragment of formula IIa or IIb.

20

Claim 1
4. A compound as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein, when R_x represents a structural fragment of formula IIa, then the dotted lines represent bonds, A and E both represent CH and D represents -CH=CH-;

25

Claim 1
5. A compound as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein, when R_x represents a structural fragment of formula IIa, X_1 represents optionally unsaturated C_2 - or C_3 -alkylene, or $-Z-A^3$ (in which Z represents O, $S(O)_m$ or $N(R^{25})$ (in which R^{25} is as defined in Claim 1 or represents C_{1-4} alkyl or $C(O)R^{30}$ and m and R^{30} are as defined in Claim 1) and A^3 represents C_1 - or C_2 -alkylene (which latter group is optionally unsaturated)).

claim 1

6. A compound as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein Y represents CH_2 , $(\text{CH}_2)_2$ or $(\text{CH}_2)_3$.

claim 1

7. A compound as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein B
5 represents a structural fragment of formula IIIa in which X^5 , X^6 , X^7 and X^8 all represent CH.

claim 1

8. A compound as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein,
when D^1 and D^2 together represent a structural fragment of formula IVa,
10 in which X^{13} is O, then one of R^c and R^d represents H or C_{1-7} alkoxy and the other represents C_{1-7} alkyl.

claim 1

9. A compound as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7~~, wherein, when D^1 or D^2 represents OR^a and R^a represents $-\text{A}^5[\text{X}^{14}]_n[\text{C}(\text{O})]_r\text{R}^e$, and
15 (i) A^5 is a single bond, then R^e is:-

(1) A^7 -aryl, optionally substituted by one or more halo, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkyl or halo- C_{1-6} -alkyl substituents; or

(2) H or linear, branched, optionally unsaturated, and/or cyclic, C_{1-12} alkyl, which cyclic alkyl group is optionally interrupted by an O atom and, optionally, a further O atom or $\text{S}(\text{O})_m$ group; or when
20

(ii) A^5 is linear or branched C_{1-12} alkylene, X^{14} is O and r is 0, then R^e is C_{1-3} alkyl or A^7 -aryl, in which A^7 is a single bond.

claim 1

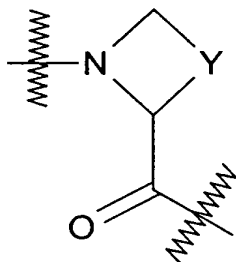
10. A compound as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7 or 9~~, wherein,
25 when D^1 or D^2 represents OR^a , then R^a is H or C_{1-4} alkyl.

claim 1

11. A compound as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7~~, wherein, when D^1 or D^2 represents $-\text{C}(=\text{X}^{11})\text{X}^{12}\text{R}^b$, in which X^{11} represents O and X^{12} represents O or S, and, in which R^b group, A^5 represents a single bond.

then R^c represents optionally unsaturated C₁₋₆ alkyl, A⁷-C₆₋₁₀-aryl (in which A⁷ represents a single bond or C₁₋₂ alkylene, and which A⁷-C₆₋₁₀-aryl group is optionally substituted by one or more halo, C₁₋₄ alkyl and/or C₁₋₄ alkoxy groups), or A⁷-C₃₋₇-cycloalkyl, in which A⁷ represents a single bond or linear or branched C₁₋₇ alkylene, and which cycloalkyl group is optionally substituted by C₁₋₃ alkyl.

12. A compound of formula I, as defined in *Claim 1* ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the fragment



is in the S-configuration.

13. A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in *Claim 1* ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

14. A compound as defined in *Claim 1* ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as a pharmaceutical.

15 A compound as defined in *Claim 1* ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of a condition where inhibition of thrombin is required.

16. A compound as defined in *Claim 1* ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of.

thrombosis.

17. A compound as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as an anticoagulant.

5

18. The use of a compound as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as active ingredient in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition where inhibition of thrombin is required.

10

19. The use as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the condition is thrombosis.

20. The use of a compound as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as active ingredient in the manufacture of an anticoagulant.

15

21. A method of treatment of a condition where inhibition of thrombin is required which method comprises administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a person suffering from, or susceptible to, such a condition.

20

22. A method as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the condition is thrombosis.

25

23. A method as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the condition is hypercoagulability in blood and tissues.

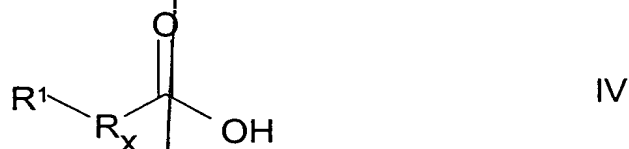
24. A process for the preparation of compounds of formula I which

Sell
Bd

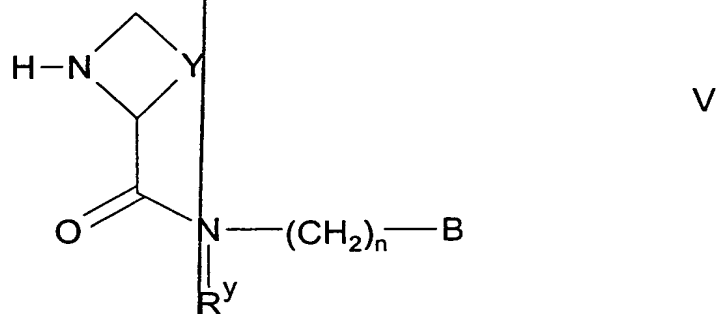
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comprises:

(i) the coupling of a compound of formula IV,

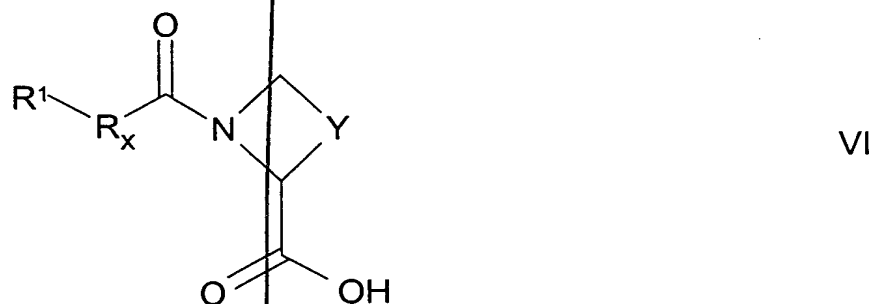


wherein R^1 and R_x are as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula



wherein R^y , Y, n and B are as defined in Claim 1;

(ii) the coupling of a compound of formula VI,

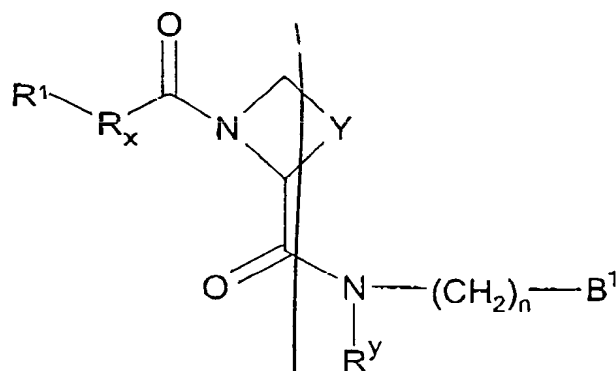


10 wherein R^1 , R_x and Y are as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula VII,



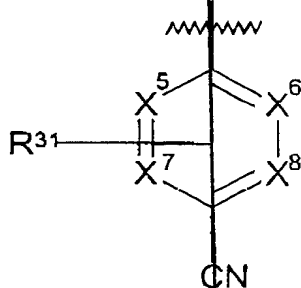
wherein R^y , n and B are as defined in Claim 1;

(iii) for compounds of formula I in which D^1 or D^2 represents OR^a or
15 NHR^a , reaction of a compound of formula VIII,

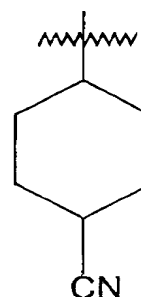


VIII

wherein B¹ represents a structural fragment of formula IIIId or IIIIf



IIIId



IIIIf

and R¹, R_x, Y, R^y, n, R³¹, X⁵, X⁶, X⁷ and X⁸ are as defined in Claim 1
5 with a compound of formula IX,



IX

wherein X^a represents O or NH and R^a is as defined in Claim 1;

- (iv) for compounds of formula I in which D¹ or D² represents OR^a or NHR^a, reaction of a compound of formula I in which D¹ or D² (as
10 appropriate) represents C(O)OR^{bl}, in which R^{bl} represents a protecting group with a compound of formula IX as defined above;
- (v) for compounds of formula I in which D¹ or D² represents OR^a or NHR^a, R^a represents -A⁵[X⁴]_n[C(O)]_rR^c, in which A⁵ does not represent a single bond, and n represent 1, reaction of a compound of formula I in
15 which D¹ or D² (as appropriate) represents OH or NH₂, with a compound

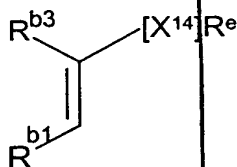
of formula X,



wherein L^1 represents a suitable leaving group, A^{5a} represents A^5 , as defined in Claim 1 except that it does not represent a single bond, and X^{14} ,

5 r and R^e are as defined in Claim 1;

(vi) for compounds of formula I in which D^1 or D^2 represents OR^a or NHR^a , R^a represents $-A^5[X^{14}]_n[C(O)]_r R^e$, in which A^5 represents C_{2-12} alkylene, which alkylene group is branched at the carbon atom that is α to the O or N atom of OR^a or NHR^a (as appropriate), and which group is optionally branched at the carbon atom that is β to that atom, n represents 1, r represents 0 and R^e is as defined in Claim 1, reaction of a compound of formula I in which D^1 or D^2 (as appropriate) represents OH or NH_2 , with a compound of formula XI,



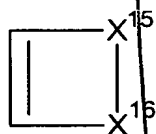
XII

15 or a geometrical isomer thereof, or a mixture of such geometrical isomers, in which R^{b1} and R^{b3} each represent H or an alkyl group, provided that the total number of carbon atoms provided by R^{b1} and R^{b3} does not exceed 10, and wherein X^{14} and R^e are as defined in Claim 1;

(vii) for compounds of formula I in which D^1 or D^2 represents OR^a or NHR^a , R^a represents $-A^5[X^{14}]_n[C(O)]_r R^e$, in which A^5 represents a single bond, and R^e represents A^7-C_{3-6} -cycloalkyl, in which A^7 represents a single bond, and the cycloalkyl group is interrupted by at least one O or S atom, which atom is between the carbon atom at the point of attachment to the O or NH group of OR^a or NHR^a , and a carbon atom that is α to that point of attachment, and which cycloalkyl group is optionally interrupted by one or more O or $S(O)_m$ group and/or optionally substituted by one or

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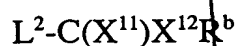
more =O group, reaction of a compound of formula I, in which D¹ or D² (as appropriate) represents OH or NH₂, with a compound of formula XII,



XII

wherein X¹⁵ represents O or S and X¹⁶ represents C₁₋₄ alkylene (which
5 alkylene group is optionally interrupted by one or more O or S(O)_m group and/or optionally substituted by one or more =O group);

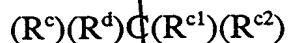
(viii) for compounds of formula I in which D¹ or D² represents C(X¹¹)X¹²R^b, reaction of a compound of formula I in which D¹ and D² both represent H with a compound of formula XIII,



XIII

wherein L² represents a suitable leaving group, and X¹¹, X¹² and R^b are as defined in Claim 1;

(ix) for compounds of formula I in which D¹ and D² together represent a structural fragment of formula IVa, reaction of a corresponding compound
15 of formula I in which D¹ or D² represents OH or NHR^f (in which R^f is as defined in Claim 1), with a compound of formula XV,



XV

wherein R^{c1} and R^{c2} both represent -OR^{c3}, in which R^{c3} represents C₁₋₃ alkyl, or together represent =O, and R^c and R^d are as defined in Claim 1;

(x) for compounds of formula I in which one or more of X⁵, X⁶, X⁷ and X⁸ represent N-O, oxidation of a corresponding compound of formula I in which X⁵, X⁶, X⁷ and/or X⁸ (as appropriate) represent(s) N; or

(xi) for compounds of formula I in which any one of Z, X₁, R², R⁴, A⁵, A⁷, R^c, R^d and/or R^e comprises or includes a S(O) or a S(O)₂ group,

25 oxidation of a corresponding compound of formula I (or a compound corresponding to a compound of formula I) wherein Z, X₁, R², R⁴, A⁵, A⁷, R^c, R^d and/or R^e (as appropriate) comprise(s) or include(s) a S group;

B2
(xii) for compounds of formula I in which D^1 and D^2 both represent H, removal of a OR^a , NHR^a or $C(=X^{11})X^{12}R^b$ group (in which R^a , R^b , X^{11} and X^{12} are as defined in Claim 1), or removal of a structural fragment of formula IVa as defined in Claim 1, from a corresponding compound of

5 formula I; or

(xiii) introduction and/or interconversion of a substituent on an aromatic and/or non-aromatic, carbocyclic and/or heterocyclic ring in a corresponding compound of formula I.